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## PALMETTO AFFAIRS

### State News of Interest From Various Sections

#### TRIED TO BURN JAIL.

#### Aiken Negro Makes Attempt to Escape.

Aiken, Special.—Will Blackwell, colored, was placed in the county jail Monday afternoon, charged with larceny of live stock. The case is a rather peculiar one. It is charged that last Thursday night Blackwell went to the place of Mrs. Alice Lamar, near Langley, and stole a milk cow. The cow was tracked for several miles the following day, but when the trail was lost, Magistrate David Bush was telephoned to and asked to be on the lookout for the cow and the thief. A few minutes after the telephone message was received, Mr. Bush saw the cow and the negro was leading her. He deputized a constable to arrest him. Blackwell explained that he had come across the cow in the road and that she had followed him off. He was placed in the Ellenton jail, and Saturday night, Magistrate Bush says, he tried to burn the jail and escape, and a large hole was burned in the house, but fortunately the fire did not get any headway.

#### Mill Children Entertained.

Ware Shoals, Special.—On the evening of Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin D. Riegel entertained 100 children employees of the Ware Shoals Manufacturing Company to a sumptuous roast turkey supper. The little folks enjoyed the feast of good things provided and their happy faces betokened the fact that all had done ample justice to the rich and varied menu provided by their kind host and hostess. Miss Frances Edmonston of Washington helped to make it pleasant for the children, while a company of local ladies and gentlemen acted as waiters upon the various tables. Several speeches were made by Mr. W. C. Cobb, Mr. F. J. Clark and others. Three hearty cheers were given by the children in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Riegel. Every child received a present of oranges, apples, candy and bananas before leaving for their homes. The event proved one of the happiest and most appreciated ever held in our town.

#### County Fair For Edgefield.

Edgefield, Special.—At a meeting of the citizens of the county held here last week a county agricultural fair association was organized. Before the organization President J. E. Green of the Georgia-Carolina fair addressed the meeting. James R. Cantelon was elected president, J. W. Hardy of Johnston and James D. Mathis of Trenton vice presidents. The capital stock was fixed at \$1,000 with the right to increase to \$10,000 in shares of \$5 each, the association to be permanently organized when not less than \$200 has been subscribed and paid in. A board of directors, consisting of 10, was elected, also committees to solicit subscriptions and procure a charter. The fair is an assured fact.

#### Harvard Instructor Comes to Wofford

Spartanburg, Special.—Dr. Wm. Colwell, for the past four years instructor in German at Harvard, was chosen by the trustees of Wofford college to succeed Dr. A. B. Cooke in the department of modern languages. Dr. Colwell is 30 years of age. He will arrive in Spartanburg February 1. Until then his work will be divided among the members of Wofford faculty. Dr. Cooke has accepted a position as head of the department of modern languages at Throon institute at Pasadena, Cal. He and family will leave Spartanburg December 26.

#### Col. T. C. Duncan Purchases Cotton Mill.

Spartanburg, Special.—A report reached Spartanburg that Col. T. C. Duncan, formerly of Union, but now of Tennessee, had organized a company in that State and had purchased the Aetha Cotton Mills. Colonel Duncan was formerly president of the Buffalo and Union Mills.

## THE WORK OF CONGRESS

### Congressional Summary.

The business of both houses of Congress was confined largely to listening to the reading of the President's annual message but in addition a few bills were introduced both in the Senate and the House and in the House a number of bills were sent to conference, among them being one providing for a new immigration station in Boston.

In addition, the Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Higgins, of Connecticut, to a place on the committee on the judiciary, in place of Mr. Littlefield and of Mr. Martin to a place on the committee on Indian affairs in place of Mr. Parker, deceased.

For the first time during the present Congress there was a call of the committees of the House but no measure was reported by any of them.

The miscellaneous work of the Senate consisted in the main of the reference in executive session of about 1,500 recess nominations, which were sent to the Senate by the President, and the adoption of resolutions of regret on account of the death of members of the House who have passed away since the adjournment last May. The Senate adjourned for the day at 2 o'clock and the House at 2:35.

### Census Bill Passed.

For nearly five hours the House of Representatives considered the bill providing for the taking of the thirtieth and subsequent decennial censuses, and passed it without material change. From the very outset of the debate it became evident that the progress of the measure toward passage would be impeded.

### Pensions in Senate.

The session of the Senate was chiefly devoted to the formal presentation of departmental reports and the introduction of bills. The reports have been made public from time to time and the bills numbering 352 were chiefly for the granting of pensions.

### Saturday's Session.

The House of Representatives Saturday was in its old-time form. No particular programme had been mapped out, but under a call of committees several measures in which the members were especially interested, and in some cases vitally concerned, were considered. With few exceptions they engendered the liveliest sort of debate, and it was disclosed that the forces for or against them were fully lined up for the fray. Parliamentary tactics were freely resorted to, with the result that five times the roll was called.

The first rangle occurred on a resolution fixing the boundary line between the States of Colorado, Oklahoma and New Mexico, which was agreed to by a majority but not without two roll calls. The House then by a decisive vote refused to further consider the bill providing for arbitrary settlement of disputes between employers and employees.

Next turning attention to the bill providing for the protection of aliens in the United States the subject was thrashed out at length. The measure had rough sailing and it was passed by a slim majority after the roll had been called twice.

### Mr. and Mrs. Taft Given Reception

Washington, Special.—President-elect and Mrs. William H. Taft were tendered a reception by Miss Mabel Boardman, a Washington society leader, at her home on Dupont circle. The function was one of the most notable of the season, and among the guest were a large number of the representative persons of the Capital's official, diplomatic and social circles.

### The Evacuation of Cuba.

Washington, Special.—At the War Department the first details regarding the withdrawal from Cuba of the American army of pacification, which has been on duty there since the fall of 1906, were made known. The movements of the troops will begin on January 1st and will be completed by April 1st.

## FOREST RESERVES

### One of the Most Urgent Needs of the Nation

### THE DEMAND FULLY GONE OVER

#### Governors and Prominent Men From Every Section of the Country Appear Before the House Committee and Urge the Establishment of Forest Reserves.

Washington, Special.—A distinguished assembly of witnesses testified before the House committee on agriculture to the need of the Federal government establishing forest reserves in the White mountains and in the Southern Appalachians. It marked the opening of the fight in this session of Congress for the creation of these reserves to protect the navigability of navigable streams, a purpose which the committee conceded is constitutional.

Besides Governor Guild, of Massachusetts, who was the spokesman until he was compelled to leave the city and turn his duties over to Col. William S. Harvey, of Philadelphia, Governors Chamberlain, of Oregon; Ansel, of South Carolina; Hoke Smith of Georgia, and Johnson, of Minnesota, former Governors George E. Pardee, of California, and Blanchard, of Louisiana, and Dr. Edward Everett Hale, chaplain of the Senate, were among those who appeared. Chairman Scott, of the committee, said the committee appreciated the public sentiment in favor of the project but that the problem of obtaining the desired end was difficult.

Representative Scott explained that the House committee on the judiciary had questioned the constitutionality of action on the part of Congress looking toward the purchase of land for the conservation of forests whatever it might do toward protecting the navigability of the streams of the country.

Governor Guild, in responding, laid emphasis upon the ability of the general government to undertake projects for the general welfare of the country, saying the appeal came from all quarters of the nation.

It is probably the first time in history that the Governor of South Carolina and the Governor of Massachusetts have joined hand in hand to appeal to Congress for the enactment of law for the general welfare of the United States," said Governor Guild, as he bowed to Governor Ansel, of the Southern State.

President Van Hise took the position that the peculiar rapidity of erosion in the Southern Appalachian mountains necessitated the establishment of a reserve there, for the preservation of the navigability of the streams and the protection of the harbors. He gave it as his opinion that the crucial area to be purchased was the lower slopes of the mountains where the inclines are so steep and erosion so rapid that their use for agriculture is less important than the preservation of the streams.

### Nine Injured by Bomb.

New York, Special.—Creeping over the roof to an airshaft in the five-story tenement at 330 Sixty-third street, a Black Hand agent dropped a bomb to the ground. The explosion that resulted was terrific. The walls of the building reeled and tottered, almost falling, and every window within a block or more was shattered. Nine people in the building and in the street were injured by the explosion of the bomb, some of them seriously, although it is not thought that any of them will die. It was a miracle that no one was killed outright. The police are investigating the case and they have come to the conclusion that the bomb dropping was the work of the same Black Hand agent who three years ago kidnapped the small son of an Italian banker, who owns and occupies a part of the building, and that the motive was revenge, the banker having refused to ransom his son. The bomb-thrower made good his escape, but the police believe that they have clues which may lead to his capture, or possibly to the breaking up of a Black Hand gang.

### Pope Pius Blesses Mr. Taft and His Family.

Rome, By Cable.—Pope Pius blessed President-elect Taft and his family. The blessing was declared in the presence of Archbishop Glennin, of St. Louis, who told the Pope that he had received a letter from Taft in which the President-elect expressed cordial friendship for the Catholics. The Pope received the news with unfeigned delight and pronounced the blessing upon Taft and family.

### Wife of Millionaire is Arrested For Shoplifting.

New York, Special.—Mrs. Louis J. Schloss, wife of the well known New York and Baltimore clothier, was arrested here last week for shoplifting. Different articles she had picked up amounted to about \$16. She pleads nervousness and ill health. The case will be heard soon.

### Thomas F. Ryan Gives \$1,000 to Uncle Remus Fund.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—J. G. Lester, secretary of the "Uncle Remus" memorial association, announced the receipt of a contribution of \$1,000 from Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, to the fund of perpetuating the memory of Joel Chandler Harris. Mr. Ryan was tendered and has accepted the vice presidency of the association.

### Mail Carrier Badly Hurt.

Spartanburg, Special.—Jesse L. Wood, a well known letter carrier, was thrown from his buggy early Sunday morning and seriously injured. The horse Mr. Wood was driving took fright on east Main street, just in front of the First Presbyterian church. He was thrown violently to the sidewalk and knocked unconscious. When taken to his home it was discovered that three of his ribs had been broken and one of his shoulders terribly injured. He is threatened with pneumonia, which makes his condition trebly worse.

### Every Citizen to Become a Soldier.

Washington, Special.—Every male citizen in the United States between the ages of 16 and 45 is to become a part of the military force of the country and to be liable for military duty under the terms of a bill, the passage of which has been recommended by the President in a special message to Congress. The bill provides an elastic organization and, as the President says, under its provisions it will be just as easy to raise an army of 2,500,000 as of 50,000.

### Killed by Electric Shock.

Yorkville, Special.—Mr. W. F. Downs, a native of Fort Mill, and for the past three or four years head machinist at the Tavora Cotton Mill at this place, was instantly killed by an electrical current. The electrical current which is furnished by the Southern Power Company, had failed and Superintendent Ramsour and Mr. Downs were searching for the trouble. The switch had been opened and Downs placed his hand on a wire he supposed dead but it proved not to be and he fell back lifeless.

### Mr. Kitchen's Resignation Effective Day Before He Becomes Governor.

Washington, Special.—Representative W. W. Kitchen, of North Carolina, Governor-elect of his State, has forwarded to Governor Glenn his resignation as the representative from the fifth North Carolina district, to take effect January 11th. Mr. Kitchen will be inaugurated Governor January 12th.

### TO TEST GOOD FLOUR.

Squeeze some of the flour in your hand; if good it will retain the shape given by pressure. Knead a little between your fingers; if it works soft and sticky it is poor. Throw a little against a dry perpendicular surface; if it falls like powder it is bad.—Baton Post.

## PANAMA EXPLOSION

### Results in a Number of People Losing Their Lives

### SCENES OF GREAT EXCITEMENT

#### Premature Explosion of an Enormous Blast of Powder Near Colon Claims Ten Dead and Fifty Injured.

Colon, By Cable.—A giant blast of dynamite, already prepared for firing, was prematurely exploded in the workings at Bas Obispo Saturday. Ten men were killed and fifty injured. It may be that others have been killed, for debris is piled up in all directions.

Bas Obispo ent is about 30 miles from Colon, and the shock of the explosion was distinctly felt here, as in addition to that in the blast, 22 tons of dynamite was exploded.

Numerous reports are current as to the cause of the accident but the official version from Culebra, which gives an estimate of ten killed and fifty wounded, states that during the loading of the last hole of the blast the dynamite in this cutting was discharged, and the remaining 22 tons were exploded by concussion.

The holes had not been connected electrically as the discharge of the blast was set for 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The last hole was being loaded under the supervision of one of the most efficient powder men in the employ of the commission.

A passenger train had just passed when the explosion occurred, but it was not in any way damaged. The majority of the victims are Spaniards.

Relief trains were sent to the scene of the disaster and one which returned here several hours later brought back the report that 45 of the injured had been sent to Ancon Hospital.

The officials on the train stated that eleven dead had been found while many others in the gang of 120 who were employed in the cut were missing.

It was also reported by the trainmen that the explosion was due to a passing steam shovel, which hooked the wire leading to the immense charge of dynamite. Whether or not this was the cause of the accident, a steam shovel and crew, which happened to be on the scene were practically buried under the mass of rocks and earth thrown up.

Gangs were soon searching for the dead and assisting the wounded. Electric lights were set up and at night steam shovels were at work removing the tons upon tons of debris. Many of the men have been seriously injured, some of them probably fatally.

Tradition has it that the Panama Railroad cost one human life for every tie, what with accidents, insurrections and disease, and the construction of the canal has not gone along without exacting its toll.

There have been a number of accidents in the last two years, chief among which was the premature explosion of dynamite at Pedro Miguel in June, 1907, which resulted in the death of seven men and the injury of a number of others.

### The Dead Total Fourteen.

Colon, By Cable.—The explosion Sunday at Bas Obispo of 21 tons of dynamite blast was the most serious accident in connection with the building of the Panama canal since the United States took control. A thorough investigation with a view to fixing the responsibility has been ordered and already officials are taking evidence.

### Crooked Wisconsin Banker Sentenced

Milwaukee, Wis., Special.—John F. Schulte, aged 38, former paying teller of the First National Bank of Racine, was sentenced to five years at Fort Leavenworth by Judge Quarles. Schulte embezzled \$15,000, pleaded guilty and asked for leniency. Five years is the minimum penalty. Schulte was arrested at Cleveland on July 7.